MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) The productivity of rice and wheat during 1985-86 has increased in all the principal States except for rice in Gujarat and Rajasthan and for wheat in Gujarat, Karnataka and West Bengal. Productivity of coarse grains has shown increasing trend except in the States of Gujarat, Haryana, M.P., Maharashtra and Karnataka. In Bihar, the productivity of rice, wheat and coarse grains has gone up.

(b) No, Sir. Indian Council of Agricultural Research have already established 32 centres for transfer of technology including projects on Tribal areas, Schedule Castes and Backward Classes development.

Delay in Movement of Foodgrains Procured in Punjab

3225. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the time specified for the movement of foodgrains procured by Food Corporatioon of India on its behalf by the State agencies in Punjab;

(b) whether due to slow movement and lesser demand from the deficit States, wheat is often stored in Punjab States for a period longer than that specified;

(c) if so, whether due to lack of storage accommodation, a good part of the foodgrains is stored in the open resulting in deterioration in quality or total loss;

(d) whether quality grade cuts are applied by the Food Corporation of India at the time of taking over the stocks and the State has to bear the losses; and

(e) if so, what action has been taken to compensate the State for losses on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No specified time is fixed for movement of foodgrains.

(b) At present, the movement from Punjab is practically in accordance with the target fixed.

(c) Stocks which cannot be accommodated in covered godowns are stored under cover-and-plinth (CAP) storage. This method of storage is an approved method and the stored grains do not deteriorate if the instructions are followed properly.

(d) and (e) Quality/grade cuts are imposed by the Food Corporation of India at the time of taking over the stocks according to the specifications prescribed by the Government of India. The responsibility of maintenance of stocks after their procurement rests with the State or the procuring agencies. However, the State agencies are reimbursed reasonable incidentals on storage and maintenance of grains procured and held by them.

Land affected by ravines in Punjab

3226. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the area of land affected by ravines in Punjab;

(b) what is the amount of Central assistance sanctioned for its reclamation, and what percentage thereof is earmarked for assisting small and marginal farmers; and

(c) the likely number of beneficiaries during the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) The area of land affected by ravines in Punjab is estimated to be 1.20 lakh hectares.